



BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

NATIONAL OFFICE
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244-2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30309, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Billy Keith, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lynn M. Davis, Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203, Telephone (615) 254-1631
RICHMOND Jesse C. Fletcher, Acting Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (703) 353-0151
WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

July 31, 1970

**White House Confab Set To Deal With
Issues Affecting Children, Youth**

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two White House Conferences, planned with the aid of church leaders, have been slated to deal with issues affecting children and youth in a complex society.

Some of the questions to be explored by some 4,000 delegates to the two conferences are: What can be done about continued neglect and abuse of children? What are the rights of children in trouble with the law? How can a "right to read" program be implemented to attack the 25 per cent illiteracy rate in the United States?

Of particular interest to church-related child service agencies will be the focus on existing institutions, their present resources and future needs, a spokesman for the two conferences said.

According to a progress report, one of the issues to be dealt with is: "How do we reconcile those things which our institutions insist the child needs with the resources required to meet those needs?"

Another focus of the conference will be "upon the critical question of whether we can modify current insitutions or whether and in what cases we must think about new institutional arrangements."

The White House Conference on Children is set for December 13-18, 1970. State delegations are already at work studying more than 1,500 recommendations made by many sources to provide a better life for American children.

The White House Conference on Youth is scheduled for sometime early in 1971, probably early in February, according to the spokesman.

Traditionally, questions concerning children and youth have been dealt with in one conference, held each decade since 1909. But this year after considerable study, national Chairman Stephen Hess said, it was decided to divide the 1970 conference into two phases.

"Today the problems of children and youth are often quite distinct," he said, "and each deserves a separate national platform."

The plan for the two meetings, Hess said, "grew out of President Nixon's determination to insure that each child in America, whether black or white, urban or rural, poor or affluent, is allowed to achieve his full potential."

Persons chosen to participate in the conferences are parents, educators, health professionals, legal representatives, social scientists and youth themselves. Though most state groups are already formed, interested persons with special qualifications for working with children may still be invited, Hess said.

Twenty-five individual forums are already at work studying vital questions on matters ranging from a crisis in values, to why a child doesn't feel well, to how his environment influences him. These forum reports will be distributed in advance for study by the 4,000 delegates coming to the Washington conferences, according to press releases from the conference staff.

The conference itself will be divided into seven major categories: individuality; learning; health; parents and families; the community and environment; laws, rights and responsibilities; and child service institutions.

Information on the names and addresses of state and regional chairmen for the two conferences is available from the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

FMB Elects PR Consultant;
Appoints 26 Missionaries

RICHMOND (BP)--The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board elected a public relations consultant and commissioned 26 new missionaries during its July meeting here.

Richard M. Styles, former director of development and public relations for Virginia Intermont College, Bristol, will begin his public relations duties with the board about Sept. 1. He will coordinate the PR task of the board's Mission Support Division, and will be directly responsible to the division director, Jesse C. Fletcher.

Styles, a 35-year-old Baptist layman and deacon from Albuquerque, N.M., directed the board's eight-week training session for Missionary Journeymen at Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C., this summer. He has assisted in Journeyman training every summer since its inception in 1965.

The new career missionaries are Mr. and Mrs. Fred M. Allen of Fort Worth, appointed to Guyana; Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Brock of Coon Rapids, Minn., Philippines; Miss Betty Lynn Cadle of Denver, Colo., Rhodesia; Mr. and Mrs. Donnell N. Courtney of Jasper, Tex., Guatemala; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Faulkner of Sherman, Tex., Rhodesia.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. L. Wayne Gresham of Arlington, Tex., Philippines; Mr. and Mrs. Lawson E. Jolly Jr., of Clearwater, Fla., Costa Rica; Mr. and Mrs. Jim K. Maroney of Wichita Falls, Tex., Ghana, and Mr. and Mrs. Clyde N. Roberts of Kenner, La., Mexico.

Mr. and Mrs. Maroney will be returning to the Baptist school in Kumasi, Ghana, where they served, 1967-69, as Missionary Journeymen.

Employed as missionary associates for terms of four or five years are Miss Lois E. Calhoun of Germantown, Ohio, for Jordan; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Falwell Jr., of Nashville, Hong Kong; Mr. and Mrs. Elton P. Gray of Biloxi, Miss., Okinawa; Mr. and Mrs. V. Merle McDonough of Jonesboro, Ark., Philippines; and Mr. and Mrs. Lehman F. Webb of Hot Springs, Ark., Singapore.

Mr. and Mrs. Falwell recently returned from a year in Hong Kong, where he was pastor of Central Baptist Church and a teacher of New Testament in the Hong Kong Baptist College and Seminary. Falwell had previously been with the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville for nine years.

More than 30,000 persons registered Christian life decisions before and during the recent Baptist evangelistic campaigns in 13 Asian countries, according to Joseph B. Underwood, consultant in evangelism and church development for the board.

The decision-makers included persons professing faith in Christ or indicating their intention to pursue a Christian vocation as well as many "seekers," Underwood told the board. Some were converts from non-Christian religions, including at least 16 Muslims in Dacca, Pakistan.

Of the total, 17,000 were Koreans. The evangelistic emphasis in Korea ran Jan. 1-July 10. In the other countries the campaigns were held June 21-July 5.

The overall results of the campaigns "can't be computerized," Underwood added. Intangible results for Asian Baptists included "a new boldness in using mass media," especially with Baptist-produced features; "creativity" in presenting the gospel through dramas and concerts; "a spirit of unity in prayer and purpose" among Baptists; "renewed confidence" that Baptists can accomplish their goals in Asia; and "the readiness of believers to witness personally."

So far this year 72 missionaries and missionary associates have been appointed, reappointed or employed at the board. The commissioning of 64 Missionary Journeymen in August will bring the year's total additions to 136.

"This number, as gratifying as it is, is well below the 183 added to the force at a comparable time last year," said Fletcher in his report to the board.

Fletcher expressed concern about the high age level of the additions to the career force. "Maturity and experience is always a plus..." he said, "but it is imperative that we move into the ranks of men and women in their middle and late 20s who already have the maturity and qualifications necessary for missionary service with a strong challenge to consider God's call for this task."

Early in 1969 the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention also sent a message to President Nixon warning that the appointment of a special representative to the Vatican would, in its opinion, "seriously erode civic and religious goodwill in this country."

"Perhaps more importantly," the SBC statement continued, "it would be, we believe, an unfortunate step backwards in American political theory and practice, and in the separate and proper functioning of church and state."

In speaking for the President, Ziegler explained that even though Lodge would have no official status he would "be discussing any international or humanitarian subject of interest and concern to the Vatican and the Pope and the President."

Further, Ziegler continued, the new appointee would be "explaining the President's views and policies and will be soliciting views from the Vatican." Also, Lodge will "report back to the President and to the government the Vatican's views" on particular subjects, Ziegler said.

The new "envoy" to the Vatican is expected to make two or three trips a year to the Vatican and will remain in Rome from two to four weeks, as necessary, to complete his periodic discussions, Ziegler said. His first visit is planned for later this month. The press secretary also noted that Lodge would not have a permanent residence in Rome.

Lodge, who is Episcopalian, will receive no salary in the new post. Formerly Chief U. S. Negotiator in the Paris Peace Talks on Vietnam, Lodge also has served as an Ambassador to Bonn and as former President Johnson's Ambassador to Saigon. In 1960 Lodge was Mr. Nixon's vice presidential running mate.

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Frisco's "Jesus Freaks"
Televised by CBS June 28

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)--Kent Philpott, a long haired minister to San Francisco's hip community and a graduate of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary will be featured as CBS' "Lamp Unto My Feet" examines "The Jesus Freaks."

Philpott and other "turned on" Christians with exotic backgrounds, including drugs, who have turned to religion to free themselves from the "hang ups" will be examined on the 30 minute telecast to be aired Sunday, June 28, 10:00 A.M. (EDT)

Filmed in the San Francisco Bay area the program reports on some of the more than 100 Christian houses where young people from the streets who have been converted to Christ now devote their lives to meditation, Bible study and fellowship, in sharp contrast to their former leanings.

Also featured are the testimonies of several community members whose lives have been changed by Christ.

Philpott aided by Paul Bryant and Oliver Heath and about 50 other friends comprise a large part of the San Francisco street ministry.

Together they run some "Christian Homes". They are not institutions and there is no thought of coercion. They are "Christian families" and the only rule they have is, "that they have to be responsible members of the family."

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DAVIS C. WOOLLEY - HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
127 NINTH AVE. N.
NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203

W. L. Howse III of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, and George W. Schroeder, executive secretary of the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention are working with the initial planning group.

From the American Baptist Convention, the general secretary, Edwin H. Tuller, and Miss Violet E. Rudd, executive director of American Baptist Women, will represent that convention.

D. C. Pettaway, Little Rock, Ark., president of the National Baptist Convention of America, also will participate, according to the original list compiled by the conference staff here.

The White House Conference on Aging, held every ten years, is aimed at "developing--for the first time--recommendations for a considered, comprehensive national policy on aging."

Religious groups and other voluntary national organizations are urged to contribute to the development of this policy by helping to review the problems faced by the elderly, listening to older persons themselves as they relate their particular needs, and making recommendations to be considered by the conference in 1971.

September, 1970, is the month set aside by conference planners for community forums to be held in thousands of cities across the nation. Local churches and other groups have been urged to help organize and participate in such meetings. The community forum plan is designed to be a vehicle to provide older Americans a chance to speak out regarding their needs, conference spokesmen said.

Especially important, according to the Washington staff of the conference, is for a "panel of officials" to be present at the forum to hear what older folks have to say. The function of this group, to be made up of state, national and local elected officials, is "to listen...and ask questions" and not to make a formal presentation, spokesmen said.

Conference plans also urged that a "gallery of listeners" be present at the forums. These are supposed to be professional persons working with the elderly in different services. In attending and listening, this group must not speak for the older persons, the conference guide stated.

Already, groups are meeting on national, state and regional levels to prepare papers leading toward recommendations in nine areas: health, income, housing, nutrition, transportation, employment and retirement, education, roles and activities, and spiritual well-being.

Conference spokesmen emphasized that if the White House meeting is to succeed, it "must be more than just another occasion to talk about older people. It must outline new goals and new directions. It must propose a plan of action for the 1970's."

The goals of the conference are listed as:

- * A more realistic and comprehensive national policy for older Americans.
- * An aroused public awareness in and concern for older peoples' needs and for the development of their potential as a national resource.
- * Better methods of developing and sustaining national, state and local efforts, both public and private, in the field of aging.
- * National action to strengthen the means of older people for independent living and the improved use of their talents, and to lessen their isolation and increase their participation in family and community life.

John B. Martin, U.S. Commissioner on Aging, and a special adviser to the President, is chairman of the conference. President Richard M. Nixon will be the honorary chairman.

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Education Groups Confer On
Private Schools In South

7/31/70

WASHINGTON (BP)--Thirty-six persons met here in the National Education Association Building at the request of a National Council of Churches staff member to discuss the place of churches in private education to avoid integration in the South.

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J. Blaine Fister, staff associate for public education in the National Council of Churches, and Boyd Bosma of the Center for Human Relations of the National Education Association (NEA), arranged for the meeting that included representatives of the National Education Association, various denominational groups and the Civil Rights Commission.

The meeting primarily reviewed the findings of the NEA task forces in Mississippi and in Louisiana which made their surveys in January and February of this year. The group then discussed the place of the churches in the developing private school issue in the South.

No specific positions were taken and no definite strategy plans were developed, although several suggestions for the churches were made by various participants.

Both the Mississippi and Louisiana task force reports said that many private schools are being set up in church facilities, but that it was impossible to document the exact number.

In their recommendations for action, both task forces urged "the national boards of various religious denominations and the National Council of Churches to investigate and to take steps to prevent the use of local churches and religious centers for private, segregated education."

At the meeting, it was estimated by one speaker that in Mississippi, there would be around 200 private schools for 200,000 white pupils when school opens in the fall of 1970.

On the other hand, another participant reported that across the South there are approximately 11.7 million public school pupils but that there would probably be a total of only 400,000 in private schools. Although this is not enough to overthrow the public school system, the spokesman stated, there are now ten times more private schools in the South than there were when the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

The task forces reported that there is very little documented evidence at the present time that the churches are providing money directly for the establishment of private, segregated schools. However, in many instances the church facilities are made available without cost, and many of the leaders of the private school movement are also leaders in the churches, the reports said.

A warning note was sounded by one person after the meeting that if church property is used primarily most of the week for school purposes and only one day a week for church services, questions of tax exemption and constitutional first amendment rights may logically be raised. In the eyes of the law, the official suggested, church property might no longer be viewed as "church" but as "school."

During the NEA meeting it was announced that a new organization, United Ministries of Public Education, had been formed by four denominations--Protestant Episcopal, United Presbyterian, United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church, USA. It was reported that the organization is now in the process of looking for staff for a Washington-based office.

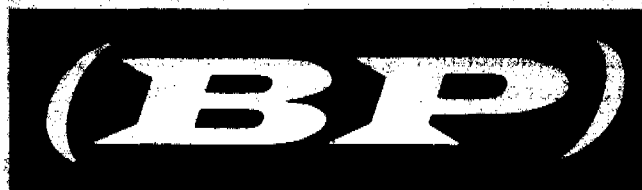
It was also reported that the American Baptist Convention and the Disciples of Christ are considering participation in the new organization.

Among the many information sheets that were distributed at the meeting were two items from Southern Baptists. One was the Southern Baptist Convention resolution, approved at Denver, on "public and private education." The other was a report from the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The Southern Baptist Convention tied together the problem of state aid to parochial schools and the issue of segregated private schools supported in some form by churches. Specifically, the resolution cautioned "congregations allowing or considering the allowing of private groups to use their facilities for elementary and secondary schools of the grave danger of losing their tax exemption on facilities for religious worship," and against "...the possibility of contributing to a rising pressure to break down Baptists' historic opposition to tax funds for any means of support for parochial elementary and secondary schools.

The South Carolina statement appealed to the churches to give the new programs in public schools a chance to succeed. It also urged persons who feel that private schools are necessary to keep such schools out of the churches.

Persons present at the NEA meeting included representatives from the National Education Association, the Southern Regional Council, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, United Church of Christ, United Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, Episcopal, Presbyterian, USA, National Council of Churches, Committee for Integrated Catholic Schools, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, United Methodist, and Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.



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